



# PRESS NOTICE

## BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**December 6, 2011**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Denmark Woman Charged with Misappropriation of VA Benefits**

The U.S. Attorney announced today that Myrtis Williams, age 44, of Denmark, South Carolina, has been charged in a three-count Indictment with misappropriating Veterans' benefits that she was managing for a veteran who had been deemed incapable of handling his own affairs, a violation of Title 38, United States Code, Section 6101. The Indictment alleges that in 2006, Williams agreed to serve as a fiduciary and received an initial payment of \$188,000 for the benefit of the veteran. Williams is charged with three instances where she allegedly entered into prohibited financial arrangements with the veteran's funds. First, she is charged with purchasing a piece of rental property for \$61,000. Later she is alleged to have taken out a \$25,000 mortgage on this property and converting part of the proceeds to her own use. The third count alleges that she used over \$22,000 of the veteran's funds to purchase a BMW vehicle that she then listed herself as the primary driver. The maximum penalty Williams could receive for each count is 5 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$250,000. The case was investigated the Department of Veterans Affairs, Inspector

General, Office of Investigations and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Dean A. Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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